Station Civil Lines, Rohtak. The main allegation in the FIR was that wheat meant for open sale was allocated by SRM, FCI, Haryana, to the traders and profiteers. The FIR names the then SRM, FCI, Haryana, and two FCI officials, apart from private parties.

(c) The State Police authorities have informed that 5 persons have been arrested so far in this case, including two FCI officials of District Office, Rohtak, and three traders. All these five accused are presently in judicial custody. Investigation has not been completed as yet. It has also been reported that there are allegations against SRM, FCI, Haryana and further evidence has been collected by the Police. Warrant of arrest against the then-SRM, FCI, Haryana, has been issued. Stranous efforts are being made to trace him early.

(d) The request from the Government of Haryana to entrust the case to the CBI for investigation has been referred to the CBI for necessary action.

(e) Total number will be known only after completion of investigation. Action in the matter is being taken by the State Police Authorities. So far two official of FCI's District Office, Rohtak, alongwith three traders, have been arrested by the Rohtak Police Authorities. SRM, Haryana, who was on deputation with FCI has been repatriated to his parent cadre, Haryana, with effect from 7.2.97. Warrant of arrest against the then SRM, Haryana has been issued. Orders placing the two FCI officials under suspension have also been issued by FCI's Regional Office, Haryana.

Cornering of Large Quantities of Wheat

190. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered any CBI enquiry into the Cornering of large quantities of wheat released by Food Corporation of India by a select cartel of traders during the last quarter of 1996;

(b) whether this has led to spiralling of wheat prices as also need to import of wheat in the first quarter of 1997; and

(c) the steps taken to punish the guilty in the matter and avoid such situation developing in future?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) A request has been received from the Government of Haryana to entrust the case relating to irregularities in sale of wheat meant for open sale under OMSS(D) to traders, to CBI for investigation. The matter has been taken up with the CBI.

(b) The requirement of consumers of foodgrains is met through PDS/RPDS and other welfare schemes at prices fixed by the Government. The decision regarding import of wheat was taken by the Government to augment the availability of wheat as also to contain rising prices.

(c) Two FCI officials and three others have been arrested. The FCI Officials have also been placed under suspension. The services of the then Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana have been repatriated to his parent cadre. Warrant of arrest against the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana, has been issued. The matter is still under investigation by the State Police.

PSUs Favoured with the Financial Autonomy

191. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) names of the PSUs which have been favoured with the financial autonomy; and

(b) the details thereof?